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fou ve seen them perioral outrageously in hillelimbs. You've seen a stock sled with a rutho kick a \$50,000 mod around the block and back again. In September, Keith Wood ser an asphalt record of 8-41 seconds in the 1/4 unle at a biostering 100 mpb. John Wheelock set a 500' grass drug record of 4.07 seconds at 150 mph with his 100 hp. ProLine/Saumons CPR RA-1 Of course, we're ralking about the RXL but check out this preview of the 2000 lineur. Yamaha's gunning for top dog and you'll

see why they just might got there Yamaba's departure from the mainstream has been evident for several years They assumed not to expectly a they roud 8. true Mountain Max-come-Viper platform was being left behind by the competition Even though there were strong RXI sales in the trail market, sales of mountain sleds have fallen off sharply for Yamaha Yamaha claimed they were not huilding a tour stroke machine because they had to. They said they were building a performance tour stroke because they could. Seemingly thetoric at the time, this thought has given way to the 2006 lineup.

The RX-1 has been renamed the Apex'. As with the 2005 model, the 2006 Apey introduces many components that shed the weight of its predecessor. Don't ger us wrong, the RX-1 is a beavy sled, but it feels light. It is a balanced machine with plenty of power to make up for the added weight of the 4 stroke. It's smooth There is no tiring vibration typical of most other machines, you feel better at the end of the day. Its throaty sound is very inspiring. It's cleaner, hurns less fuel aml is less costly to operate. It will take you turther before the engine needs rebuild-

Awesome sounding on the trail, they're really tun in the deep. Smashing though the powder with the engine running at a comfortable 6,000 rpm, transitioning into steener and deeper you giv'er, the motor revs over 8,000 rpm. The difference here is that you STILL have a fistful of throttle to apply and the motor is barely breath-

It's pulls strongly to 10,500 rpm Yamaha claims they're within 50 lbs. (or half a tank of fuel) of the competitive 2 stroke equivalent machine. We doubt this is exactly the case with the Apex, this claim probably best rests with the Vector. Comparisons still do not take into account the upside of the engine. Pack it with a turbo onto an Apex and you can easily see 200-250 hp without affecting the engine's reliability. All this at reasonably low cost compared to what you'd spend to get similar power from what would then be a less-than-dependable 2 stroke.

Interestingly, this is the first year we've seen Yamaha publish weights in a long time. The Apex Mountain clocks in at 596 lbs. dry. The RS Vector SE with the same 16' track weighs 589 lbs, only 7 lbs listage. The 15" X 151" X 2" Vector Mountain Yamaha claims is estimated at 571 lbs, or just 40 Bis, heavier than the 55) Ib Wountain Viper with a 144" truck Yamaha engineers wanted noire

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> floatation. So the Apex Mountain and RS Vector SE will share a 16" X 162" + 2.25" profile track with a 5" puch in fine mountain form. 7 tooth excessed dovers as standard with the 107 tracked models Extrovers drivers use both the track lugs and windows and require far less track tension. The result is more lip at the track while completely eliminating ratcheting.

Up from the saddicless plastic mountain ski is standard on all mountain Yamahas. The skis are now "wide and have a nice deep licel - definitely an insurmement over previous designs for front floatation and positive steering action. In powder, the snow is directed away from the rider and heatlight more-o than with previous models.

Mountain models come vith first generation front suspension geometry. Shorter Asarms limit suspension travel to 7" (instead of the 9" with gen 11) but the ski siance is narrow - it's adjustable from 57.6" to 59.6" (instead of 42.7" with 2nd generation geometry).

The ProMountain rear suspension introduced on 4 stroke models in 2005 is standard on all mountain Yamabas for '00. The 1n2" track required some design optimization to handle the added stresses and minimize weight. The tails are lightened on the tail ends and imped up towards the rear to improve trail handling of the mouster track. The Pro-Mountain skid delivers 11.5" of rear travel

Yamaha has opted for EFI instead of carburetors with the Apex. EFI brings a modest horsepower gain with significant weight reductions. Inclusive sources rumour a factory jurbo or supercharged Vector is in the works but we'll have to wait for 2007 models at least.

Yaniaha has shaved 2.5 pounds off the Apex crankshaft. This loss of rotating mass makes for an even more crisp thrortle response. Additionally, new com-halts lengthen the intake and exhaust duration. The engine is of a new sleeveless design and a new head with new make and exhaust ports. Another responsive move Overall, this year's Genesis 150 FI engine weighs 7 lbs. less and puts out 8 additional horsepower than last year's Genesis Extreme. It puts out 150 hp at 10,500

The APEX Mountain has a small radiator with an electric fan to achieve a more constant operating environment The radiator is mounted on the right hand side of the engine cab above the footwell. We wonder why no sleds come standard with ice scratchers.

The 2006 Apex is running a 4-2-1 configuration that is 5% lighter than last

years. The difference copy strong a copylonger - mio? Entirippo company of the reduces the length of the reas 2 min t steel piece that weights more. At last, the Apex exhaust outlets are slasted to the outside. This is good news for said. transported on the real careful car Sheathed in molded plant the saltae corner has an integrated f UD red also be is a strong and versarile design that r suitable for extra gas or supplies of differing shapes. Sleds without the the tear carrier have high microsay. LEEDs no off the tunnel on the sear buch

The Apex tunnel had to be colesigned to accommodate the Iti track. Its lighter tapered design incorporates a strongin angle for rapid snow evacuation. The running boards have been redesigned to allow for more effective snow ever matter from the running boards and walfootwells. With the new talker year design. Anex riders are also treated to a nevunder-sear storage area.

Yamaha's design officiency has always been a strong point. Recently, it has taken on highest priority to meet Yanahaheightened engineering and product development targets. One place this ide ology hits the steel can be seen with the integrated airbox and simil hood design of the ages. With the integrated design, the hood now weighs less than 2 lbs. That a o tion, weight reduction over the original RX-Hoos!

Rider forward. Yamaha hool sewhere in the market and foun consumers opting for more rider forwar and apright positions. The Deltahox II chassis positions the steering volume to further forward and 4 higher than las-The mountain burs extend another a higher than their trail e-provalent. The new mountain seat positions the rider 2.5 higher and to nowards the from of the machine. The upught riding position does

take a lot of stress off the enter's knee

and shoulders during a hig day The Apex long list of standard features include electric start, dignally count died hand & throatic warmers and DC outlet for accessories. Re-designed to fit the new aggressive Apex body work, a may digital cluster also now functions as a barometer, dual trip meters and a clock Other instrumentation in lides the speedo, tach, fuel level, hand & thumb beater levels, odometer; and lights for water temp, check engine and oil pressure-The display toggles between metric and SAE units of measure.

The Anex windshield design allows for higher hars and does not interfere with the brake lever in tight situations like button books or other been in the wrong place-at-the-wrong-time situations

With the RX-L Yamaha engineers have pushed the envelope with their 4 strake designs. Youngha has now had the time to examine market needs and have dialed in their high performance four stroke sleds to meet that demand.